

SYNCR EXPRESS



FOR A500/1200/2000/3000

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

AMIGA SYNCRO
EXPRESS IV

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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Syncro Express is a high speed floppy disk backup system for the Amiga computer. Data is transferred directly to target using the Syncro Express Interface producing a copy in as little as 50 seconds!

The system requires an external 3.5" disk drive which is connected via the Syncro Express interface provided. The special switching hardware in the interface appears totally invisible to normal software but if you encounter problems when using your drives, then it is advised that you only install the Syncro hardware when actually making backups.

1.1- Connecting the Syncro Express

With the computer switched off, unplug your external drive from the computer and plug in its place the Syncro Express interface. Now, plug the external drive into the connector at the rear of the interface. After completing this task, place the disk provided into the main drive DF0: and switch the computer on.

The program will autoboot into a selector screen from which you can choose either the Syncro Express program, the Disk Toolkit, Drive Speed Checker, or return to the CLI.

2.1 - Drive Speed Checker

The Drive Speed Checker program is very simple to use. Simply point at the device(s) to be checked and the rotational speed of each drive will be displayed.

2.2 - Syncro Express Program

Syncro Express is very simple to use: remove the Syncro Express disk from DF0: and replace it with the disk that you wish to copy. Place a blank disk into the external drive DF1:

When you have inserted the Source Disk into DF0: and the blank disk into DF1: then you are ready to go. Syncro Express defaults to copying an entire disk, i.e. track 0 to 81. If required, the start/end tracks can be changed to copy sections of the disk.

NOTE. By popular demand, we have included the ability to copy up to 90 tracks! It should be noted, however, that no-one will put data above track 81 since it cannot be read reliably by all drives. It is recommended that you only copy up to the default setting, i.e. track 81, since some drives are not capable of going any higher without damage **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!**

Simply point at the "GO" icon and the process will commence. The progress is displayed as a blanked box for each track. The colour blue indicates a standard track length and red indicates a long track has been encountered.

When the process is complete, you will have a complete image copy of your original.

2.3 - Index/Normal Syncro mode

By pressing the right hand mouse button, you will display the Index/Normal/Syncro Requestor.

2.4 - Index Mode

Syncro Express defaults to 'Normal' mode because it is suitable for the majority of Amiga software. However, more and more Amiga programs are using hardware (Index) syncs. These programs should be copied using the Index mode. Select Index by first pressing the right hand mouse button and then proceed as with Normal mode.

2.5 - Syncro Mode

Although the above modes will produce a perfect "image" copy in most cases, some software will make very accurate measurements of track length and position. In these cases, the rotational speed relationship between internal and external drive(s) is of vital importance. If the above method has failed, then it may be necessary to use the "Syncro" mode. This mode, as the name suggests, will try to "calibrate" or synchronise the drives for speed and index position. Selecting the Syncro Mode will make use of the alignment display at the bottom of the control panel. When the drives have reached alignment, then the software will recalibrate them. This could happen every few tracks if necessary, so the copy process will be much slower when the "Syncro" mode is selected. In some cases, the error between drives can be too great to produce a copy of certain programs, even after compensation.

2.6 - Amiga 1000

Operation for Amiga 1000 is exactly the same as for the A500.

2.7 - Advanced Tips

When making backups with the Syncro Express here are a few points to remember.

1. Always try to use blank UNFORMATTED disks for your backups.
2. If Syncro Index copy fails try using a blank UNFORMAT TED High Density Disk (the ones normally used for PC compatibles).
3. Sometimes when using Syncro copy there can be a long delay (over several minutes) between copying tracks. If this happens it can sometimes help by ejecting the source disk in DF0 and re-inserting it.

DISK TOOL COMMANDS

All	- select all source files
Clear	- clear all selected source files
All Dirs	- select all source directories
ClearDir	- clear all selected source directories
EditText	- screen editor for text files
Copy	- copy all selected source files to destination directory
Move	- move file to another directory on same device
CopyName	- copy and rename one selected file
Rename	- rename selected source file
Delete	- delete selected source file
MakeDir	- create new directory, select destination with right mouse
Read	- read binary or text file
Run	- run selected file
Print	- print selected file
Format	- format disk in second drive as a back ground task
QuickFt	- renew disk in second drive
DiskName	- rename source device
Execute	- execute script file
NewShell	- create new shell window (compatible with CLI)
Disk Doc	- repair disk in second drive as a back ground task
Protect	- prevent files from being accidentally deleted, shown by P
Un-Prot	- remove protection from files
Comment	- add a comment to a file, shown by C
ABORT!	- abort background tasks such as format, diskcopy and diskdoc
FREE	- show free memory available on both source and destination devices

3.1 - Top Line Display

Cmem - free chip memory
Fmem - free fast ram memory
Time - digital clock

3.2 - Exit To Workbench

Select standard exit icon in top left corner with left mouse button.

3.3 - Source and Destination Devices

Select source with left mouse and destination with right mouse buttons.

Interchange source and destination with -><- button.

Floppy disk, RAM disk and four hard disk partitions available.

DF0: internal disk drive
DF1: first additional disk drive
DF2: second additional disk drive
RAM: expandable ram disk
DH0: first hard disk and boot partition
DH1: second hard disk partition
DH2: third hard disk partition
DH3: fourth hard disk partition

3.4 - Directory Operations

Use right mouse button to make new destination directory.

Double click to select new directory.

Double click name header box for parent (immediately above file list).

Top name header box holds name of current directory path.

3.5 - Selection of Files for Disk Operations

Files are selected from the source list using the left mouse button.

For certain tools more than one file can be selected.

Files can be de-selected by clicking on the file name again.

Directory names can be selected for certain operations, e.g. copy and delete.

3.6 - Copy, Move and Copyname

Files are copied from the source directory to the destination directory.

The destination name can be changed while copying using COPYNAME.

Files can only be MOVED to the same device; the original file is deleted.

3.7 - Format, Quick Format, Disk Rename

Format is performed in background mode to the disk in the second drive.

Other operations can be carried out provided they do not access DF1:

Quick Format will only renew the root and boot blocks.

If required disk rename can be used after formatting or quick format.

3.8 - Disk Rename

Disk rename operates on the selected source device.

Disk rename can be used at any time without corrupting existing data.

Hard disk partitions can also be renamed.

3.9 - Disk Copy

Background disk copy from main to second drive.

3.10 - Disk Doctor

Background repair of disk in second drive.

3.11 - Print Dir

Background print of all directories and file names on source device.

3.12 - Early Termination of Background Tasks

All background tasks can be aborted with Control C.
If other work is carried out during the background task, then the screen must be re-activated with the left mouse button before aborting.

3.13 - Edit Text

Edits the selected file with the ED screen editor.

Text files only

Ctrl B	- delete a line
Esc X	- save and exit
Esc Q	- quit
Esc BS	- start block
Esc BE	- end block
Esc TB	- insert block

See User Manual for full command set.

3.14 - Read read file

Cursor key or mouse control.

SHIFT cursor to move a page at a time.

ALT cursor for top or bottom of file.

3.15 - Memory

READ and EDIT commands will only work if enough memory is available.

3.16 - Newshell

create new shell

Compatible with CLI.

Use X to ENDCLI.

Any selected script command file will run once NEWSHELL has loaded.

3.17 - Write Protect

Certain DISK TOOL facilities write to the SYNCRO EXPRESS disk.

When using DISK TOOLS therefore it is best to work with a backup copy.

3.18 - Customise Changes

Only make changes to a backed up version of SYNCRO EXPRESS III.

For hard disk users:

Replace s/startup-sequence with s/startup-sequence.hd
The system will then boot from the SYNCRO EXPRESS III disk, but will use the operating system on the hard disk. The contents of the C/ and SYSTEM/ directories may have to be transferred to the hard disk.

If internal floppy disk drive operation only is required, then the script command files T1, T2, T3, T4, can be replaced with T1S, T2S, T3S, T4S or alternatively they can be run using EXECUTE or NEWSHELL command.

NOTES

SYNCR EXPRESS

**THE WORLDS MOST
POWERFUL DISK
BACKUP SYSTEM
IS NOW EVEN BETTER!**



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THE WORLDS MOST POWERFUL DISK BACKUP SYSTEM IS NOW EVEN BETTER!

*SYNCR0 EXPRESS
VERSION 4.0 IS HERE!*



Unique custom chip gives
SYNCR0 EXPRESS
the power to backup
programs when all
other backup systems fail.
GIVEN TO HARD DRIVE!

SYNCR0 EXPRESS is a sophisticated hardware *and* software package that works by directly controlling your second drive as a slave device ignoring the Amiga's own disk drive controller. In this way SYNCR0 EXPRESS delivers the power to backup programs when other backup systems fail.

- Very simple to use, requires no user knowledge.
- The most powerful disk backup system ever conceived.
- Powerful SYNCR0 MODE actually synchronises your drives to achieve even greater backup power!
- Menu driven selection of start/end track. Up to 85 tracks.
- Totally "transparent" hardware switches out automatically when not in use.



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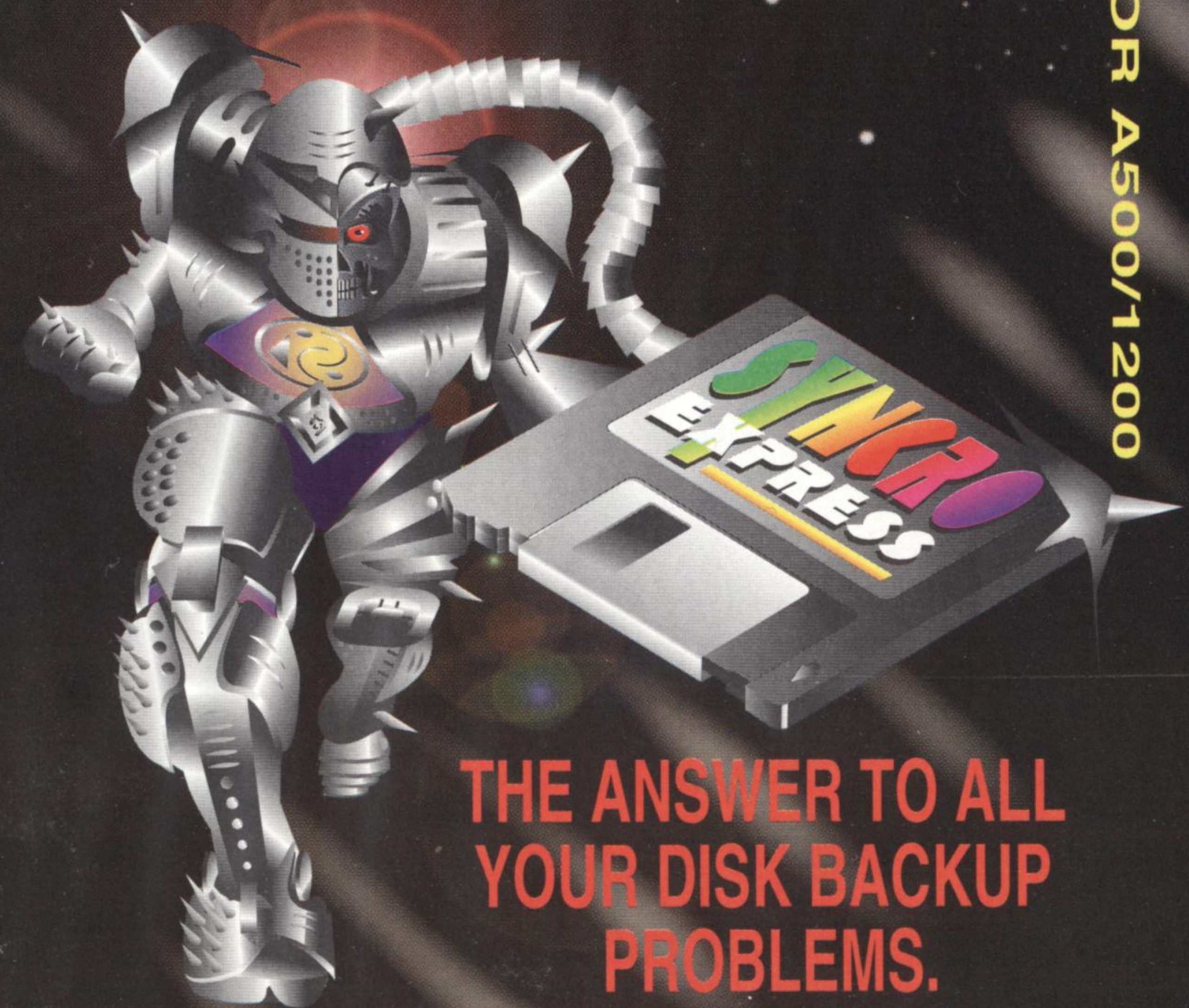
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SYNCR0
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FOR A500/1200



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SYNCR0 EXPRESS



SYNCRO
EXPRESS
MK 4

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M A N U F A C T U R E D
I N E N G L A N D

BY

D A T E L E L E C T R O N I C S